



The 90s loved looking forward. Until they didn't. The future-focused decade would lead into the dawn of a new millennium. Some saw hope and possibility. Others found reason to panic.

Dire warnings came as far back as 1984. Programmers warned that a weakness in computing language would cause a global systems crash at the stroke of midnight on December 31, 1999.



What do you remember most about Y2K?

Looking back, why were people so anxious?

Every generation has its version of Y2K, a reason for everyone to share the same fear. Communism. Global warming. DEI. Certainly these and many more issues have been loudly promoted as threats to society.

Reaction to these issues can span a wide spectrum. Some become prophets, publicly declaring the impending danger. Some become preppers, hoarding and stockpiling in case the worst happens. Others prefer to continue life as usual, taking no special precautions.



DISCUSS

- WHICH FEARS DOES HUMANITY SHARE?
- WHY DO PEOPLE SEEK OTHERS WHO SHARE THEIR SAME FEARS?

On a scale of 1 to 10, how easy is it to find something to fear?



On the same scale, how easy is it to find security when you are afraid?



Why are we so good at finding something to be afraid of?

The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The Lord is great in Zion; He is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise Your great and awesome name! Holy is He! The King in His might loves justice. You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Exalt the Lord our God; worship at His footstool! Holy is he!

Moses and Aaron were among His priests, Samuel also was among those who called upon His name. They called to the Lord, and He answered them. In the pillar of the cloud He spoke to them; they kept His testimonies and the statute that He gave them.

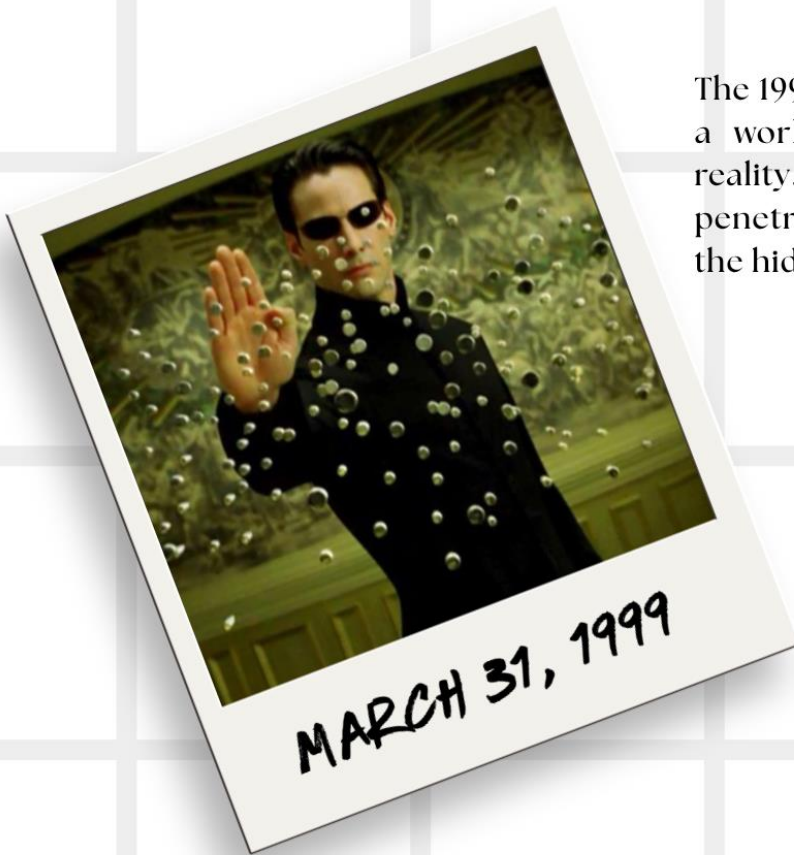
O Lord our God, You answered them; You were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy!

- Psalm 99 ESV

What makes you feel secure when you are scared?

How can the things we treasure turn into things we fear?

Psalm 99 teaches everything we lean on can shake.
The throne of God never does.



The 1999 classic sci-fi film *The Matrix* imagined a world where people mistake illusion for reality. The hero, Neo, is the one who can penetrate what's artificial and see through to the hidden truth.

Sometimes, the Lord's rule and reign can feel hidden. As believers, we can trust that He's in control somewhere behind the scenes, and still find it difficult to locate the evidence in our daily lives. It's not that the Lord lacks authority; it's merely that we have trouble seeing it. When we cannot clearly see His hand protecting and guiding us, we are tempted to search elsewhere for the security we crave.

DISCUSS

- **WHICH FALSE REALITIES TEMPT US TODAY?**
- **HOW IS THE LORD UNLIKE ANYTHING ELSE?**

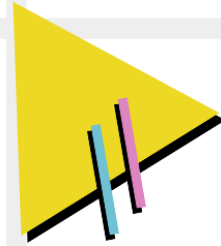
Psalm 99 repeats that the Lord is holy. The Creator is distinct from His creation in both quality and character. The Lord is utterly unique. This doesn't make Him equivalent to the best version of us. His power, wisdom, and judgment transcend our ability to fully comprehend, let alone, compare them to something we know.

Moses, Aaron, and Samuel each discovered this first-hand. Each stood before God on behalf of His people. But none were perfect. Moses struck the rock. Aaron fashioned the

golden calf. Samuel couldn't keep his sons faithful to the Lord. Those who know the Lord's holiness best still desperately need His grace.

Psalm 99 asks us to not just remember the Lord is holy, but that He chooses to not keep Himself distant. The Lord's holiness should separate Him from sinful humanity. Yet, the Lord chooses - not to overlook sin - but to provide a way to share His holiness with sinners. faithful Old Testament mediator prepares us to recognize the One Mediator who never fails.

YOU WERE A FORGIVING GOD TO THEM,
BUT AN AVENGER OF THEIR WRONGDOINGS.
- PSALM 99:8B



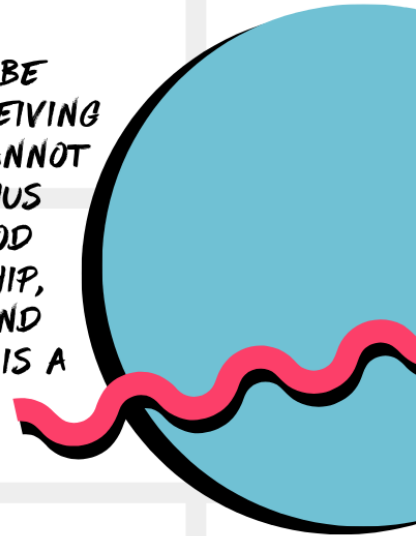
Can forgiveness and discipline coexist? How?

Loving correction does not contradict forgiveness. It often flows from it. Discipline is not the opposite of grace. For our Lord, it is one expression of His gracious, ongoing care.

The discipline we experience isn't handed down to us as the lingering remnant of an unpaid debt. Christ offered full payment for all sin on His cross, and the Father poured out His wrath on His Son. There is no punishment left for you. Jesus paid it all. Rather, discipline we experience is because by faith, we are the Lord's children under His fatherly care.

God's holiness does not disappear at the cross, but neither does His mercy. Both are fully revealed. The Holy One who could rightly condemn us instead bears our sin.

THEREFORE LET US BE
GRATEFUL FOR RECEIVING
A KINGDOM THAT CANNOT
BE SHAKEN, AND THUS
LET US OFFER TO GOD
ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP,
WITH REVERENCE AND
AWE, FOR OUR GOD IS A
CONSUMING FIRE.
HEBREWS 12:28-29



Because of Christ: We do not approach God's throne with terror. We approach with reverence and confidence that His mercy has consumed our sin. God has not lowered His holiness in order to accept us. He has raised us through Christ to stand in His holy presence now and forever.

THIS WEEK



- Read Psalm 99 daily
- Spend at least a minute daily in silent contemplation of the Lord's holiness
- Thank Him that in Christ, the Lord's holiness has become your hope, rather than your fear